so that the cameras would tell the people he was really telling all, this all stacked two feet high in two piles plus, of course, the erect one in the front to show the Presidential seal.)(Source, wire copy from Iam McDonald, IMF.)

Again why?

Why would any ruler of any land so besmirch himself?

Why would an American President do this? self-villification bit?

Why would this man of all president, the one proudest with least about which to be proud, disclose that of which men of decency would shame?

Only Nixon can say and what he had been saying for two years was proven by these transcripts to be a almost all lies, at best twisted interpretations or as he called them, ambiguities that different people whuld intepret differently. Even if he did say, who could believe him then?

He said it was to tell all, the laundered version of "let it all hang out."

It did not tell all, he knew it did not tell all, and had he ever had the intention of telling all there would not have been the public national agony of those two years.

And then why on that night so appropriate or inapporpriate, however one views it, the night that marked the end of the full years since he had castigated Dean, who had ruined his life to protect Nixon from Nixonian crime, and raised to the highest level of all those who had ever served the country. Haldeman and Ehrlichman?

Ostensibly the reason was that he was complying with a subpena of the Judi Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, which was considering voting impeachment of him. (Impeachment of a president is the equivalent of an indictment. If voted, it is then "triend" by the Senate, with Nixon's own pal and appointee, Chief Justice Warren Burger, acting as prosecutor.)

He knew and it immediately told him that he was not complying with the subpena, which asked for no transcripts but the tapes themselves, among other items of evidence. He knew that his substitute for the evidence would not be acceptable in any court in the land, regardless of its content, as it would not be acceptable to the Congress.